

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-31.

Claim 32 is canceled.

Cancel claims 33-41.

1 42. [New] A system monitoring method comprising:
2 providing a monetary budget plan with respect to performing of a job by a
3 system;
4 accessing information regarding consumption of a consumable during
5 operations of the system to perform the job;
6 associating a monetary cost with the consumption of the consumable
7 using the information;
8 comparing the monetary cost with respect to the monetary budget plan;
9 and
10 generating an alert responsive to the comparing of the monetary cost
11 with respect to the monetary budget plan.

1 43. [New] The method of claim 42 wherein the generating
2 comprises generating responsive to the monetary cost exceeding the monetary
3 budget plan.

1 44. [New] The method of claim 42 wherein the generating
2 comprises generating the alert prior to depletion of the monetary budget plan.

1 45. [New] The method of claim 42 further comprising estimating
2 a time until depletion of the monetary budget plan.

1 46. [New] The method of claim 42 further comprising providing
2 an initial quantity of consumable items of the consumable, and the consuming
3 comprises consuming the consumable items.

1 47. [New] The method of claim 42 wherein the accessing
2 information comprises accessing information regarding consumption of the
3 consumable comprising a plurality of consumable items.

1 48. [New] The method of claim 42 wherein the job comprises a
2 mass mailing and the consumable comprises a consumable of the mass mailing.

1 49. [New] The method of claim 42 wherein the job comprises a
2 print job and the consumable comprises paper.

1 50. [New] The method of claim 42 further comprising disabling
2 at least a portion of the system responsive to the comparing of the monetary
3 cost with respect to the monetary budget plan.

1 51. [New] A system monitoring method comprising:
2 accessing information regarding consumption of a consumable during
3 operations of a system with respect to performing at least one job;
4 providing a value indicative of the consumption of the consumable;
5 monitoring a type of the operations; and
6 adjusting the value responsive to the monitoring identifying the type of at
7 least one of the operations comprising a predetermined type of operation.

1 52. [New] The method of claim 51 wherein the operations of
2 the system comprise operations with respect to printing and the predetermined
3 type of operation comprises a printing operation with respect to a predetermined
4 type of printing by the system.

1 53. [New] The method of claim 52 wherein the predetermined
2 type of printing comprises printing a plurality of consecutive pages comprising
3 substantially the same content.

1 54. [New] The method of claim 52 wherein the predetermined
2 type of printing comprises printing a plurality of single page print jobs.

1 55. [New] The method of claim 52 wherein the predetermined
2 type of printing comprises printing a plurality of single page print jobs which are
3 not associated with one another.

1 56. [New] The method of claim 51 wherein the predetermined
2 type of operation comprises an intermittent operation.

1 57. [New] The method of claim 51 wherein the predetermined
2 type of operation comprises an intermittent operation with respect to printing.

1 58. [New] The method of claim 51 wherein the consumable has
2 an associated useful life, and wherein the adjusting the value is indicative of
3 increased wear of the consumable compared with wear resulting from operations
4 of the system other than the predetermined type of operation.

1 59. [New] The method of claim 51 further comprising providing
2 a useful life of the consumable and the value of the consumption of the
3 consumable is indicative of consumption of the useful life of the consumable.

1 60. [New] The method of claim 59 wherein the value is
2 indicative of a remaining useful life capacity of the consumable.

1 61. [New] The method of claim 59 wherein the value is
2 indicative of usage of the useful life of the consumable.

1 62. [New] A system monitoring apparatus comprising:
2 a controller configured to access usage information indicative of
3 consumption of a consumable over a period of time by a system to perform
4 hard imaging wherein a plurality of hard images are formed upon media, to
5 access usage profile data indicative of expected consumption of the consumable
6 over the period of time, to compare the usage information with the usage profile
7 data, and to generate an alert responsive to the usage information deviating
8 from the usage profile data.

1 63. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the consumable
2 comprises the media.

1 64. [New] The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the media
2 comprises a plurality of sheets of paper.

1 65. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage
2 information indicates consumption of a number of consumable items of the
3 consumable over the period of time.

1 66. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage
2 information indicates wear of the consumable having a fixed useful life.

1 67. [New] The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the controller is
2 further configured to identify the hard imaging comprising a predetermined type
3 of hard imaging and to adjust the indication of wear responsive to the
4 identification.

1 68. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage profile
2 data comprises data derived from prior consumption of the consumable by the
3 system.

1 69. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is
2 configured to disable at least a portion of the system responsive to the usage
3 information deviating from the usage profile data.

1 70. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is
2 configured to disable an entirety of the system responsive to the usage
3 information deviating from the usage profile data.

1 71. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is
2 configured to automatically generate a purchase order without user interaction
3 responsive to the usage information deviating from the usage profile data.

1 72. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is
2 configured to access a monetary budget plan with respect to the consumption of
3 the consumable over the period of time, to determine monetary cost associated
4 with the consumption of the consumable over the period of time, and to
5 generate an alert responsive to the monetary cost exceeding the monetary
6 budget plan.